

529311

25 MAR 2005

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
8 April 2004 (08.04.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2004/029337 A1**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **C30B 1/10**,  
H01L 21/283, 23/48

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2003/030472

(22) International Filing Date:  
26 September 2003 (26.09.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/414,010 26 September 2002 (26.09.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

— *of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only*

**Published:**

— *with international search report*

— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

(54) Title: **NICKEL SILICIDES FORMED BY LOW-TEMPERATURE ANNEALING OF COMPOSITIONALLY MODULATED MULTILAYERS**

(57) Abstract: Methods are disclosed for making a compound of nickel and silicon. According to an embodiment, on a surface of a substrate (e.g., silicon), multiple layer pairs are formed in a superposed manner. Each layer pair includes a respective layer of nickel and a respective layer of silicon each being 3 nm or less in thickness. The layer of nickel and silicon in the multiple layer pairs are formed in alternating order, thereby forming a multilayer structure, wherein the layers of nickel and silicon in the multilayer structure are formed at respective thicknesses corresponding to desired mole fractions of nickel and silicon in the multilayer structure. The multilayer structure is annealed at a temperature of 200 °C or less to form an amorphous alloy of nickel and silicon in the multilayer structure, wherein the alloy has the desired mole fractions of nickel and silicon. The amorphous alloy is allowed to nucleate and form a corresponding crystalline alloy having the desired mole fractions of nickel and silicon.

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